

Message Text

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14

ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5952

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, PINR, EMIN, NI

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: ARTHUR G. MCKEE DIRECT REDUCTION PROPOSAL
(ALHAJI IBRIBIM IMAM)

REF: STATE 175877 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY COMMERCIAL FILES HAVE NO RECORD OF FIRM OR IMAM. A 1961 NORTHERN NIGERIA LEGISLATIVE WHO'S WHO DESCRIBES IMAM, BORN 1916, AS A TRADER AND CONTRACTOR ACTIVE IN NORTHERN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS FROM LATE 1940S. ATTENDED A NORTHERN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, NO UNIVERSITY LISTED. IN 1961 WAS LEADER OF OPPOSITION, HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF OLD NORTHERN PROVINCE. AT ONE TIME WAS SUPERVISOR OF WORKS, BORNO (NORTHEAST). IMAM APPEARS TO BE HAUSA FROM WHAT NOW BORNO STATE.

2. EMBOFF CALLED ON IMAM JULY 20, DAY REFTEL RECD, AT INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS LIMITED, INVESTMENT HOUSE, ROOM 608-612, 21/25 BROAD STREET, P.O. BOX 1190, LAGOS. TELEPHONE 21438, TELEX 21574 INPROM LAGOS. (INVESTMENT HOUSE ALSO HOUSES PANAM.) IMAM, MANAGING DIRECTOR OCCUPIES COMFORTABLE FURNISHED OFFICE DECORATED IN NORTHERN STYLE AND LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE TWO OR THREE PALAVERS GOING ON SIMULTANEOUSLY. IMAM JOKINGLY DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS FORMER NORTHERN OPPOSITION LEADER WHO HARASSED SOUTHERNERS IN DAYS OF CIVILIAN RULE. SAID HE FOUNDED INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS IN 1967 TO PROVIDE PROJECT AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND TO MATCH INVESTORS WITH SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE AND PARTNERS (A FIELD WHICH SHOULD IMPROVE UNDER NEW INDIGENIZATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICIES). FIRM TAKES NO EQUITY IN PROJECTS AND EMPLOYS

ONLY 10 BUT HAS SEVERAL ACADEMICS AND OTHER SPECIALISTS ON RETAINER, IMAM SAID. HE AUTHORIZED EMBASSY TO CHECK WITH HIS BANKERS, BANK OF AMERICA, BROAD ST., LAGOS, AND AFRICAN CONTINENTAL BANK, MARTINS ST., LAGOS. AS PAST OR PRESENT AMERICAN CLIENTS IMAM NAMED BECKET INT'L., LOS ANGELES; ANCHOR OR ANGA GLASS; BOYLE ENGINEERING CORP., NEWPORT BEACH, CAL., AND PRC (RICHARD WALBRECKER). BECKET MAY BE WELTON BECKET AND ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS, 10000 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CAL. ZGOPPW TN CONTACT DONNELL V. GRIMES, SENIOR VP, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS, 213 553-0555.

3. IMAM INTRODUCED AN ASSOCIATE, JOHN K. WILSON, AN ENGINEER, WHO EXPLAINED THE FIRM'S CONTACT WITH MCKEE AS FOLLOWS. DURING A RECENT U.S. VISIT, A WASHINGTON CONTACT NAMED HENRY HERRMAN INTRODUCED WILSON TO TWO MCKEE OFFICIALS, RICHARD J. OEHLBERG, VP SPECIAL PROJECTS, AND CHARLES E. GOLSON, VP. WILSON DESCRIBED FIRM'S SERVICES AND MCKEE OFFICIALS ASKED IF FIRM COULD SURVEY AJEOKUTA IRON/STEEL PLANT SITE. NOTHING DECIDED BUT AFTER RETURNING LAGOS WILSON WROTE MCKEE IN IMAM'S NAME OFFERING REPRESENT FIRM AND RECEIVED DENIAL THAT MCKEE HAD EVER DISCUSSED MATTER WITH IMAM. LATTER THINKS MCKEE UNDERSTANDABLY CONFUSED BY APPROACH FROM UNKNOWN NAME AND CONSIDERS MATTER CLOSED UNTIL MCKEE REOPENS IT.

4. ONLY OTHER FILE INFORMATION IS LOLLIS NOTE THAT IMAM MAY HOLD AN OVERRIDING ROYALTY ON FOUR OF JAPAN OIL COMPANY'S SIX NIGERIAN OFFSHORE OIL CONCSSIONS.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY KNOWS OF NOTHING DEROGATORY BUT UNABLE DEFINITELY ASSESS IMAM'S SUITABILITY FOR MCKEE'S NEEDS. HE OBVIOUSLY SEASONED AND WELL-CONNECTED CHARACTER WORTHY OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION BY MCKEE, WHICH OVERDUE FOR PERSONAL VISIT IF SINCERELY INTERESTED IN PROJECTS HERE.
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